

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strike through~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1-3 and ADD new claim 5 in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended) An internal combustion engine exhaust gas purifying system having a continuous regenerating diesel particulate filter system ~~on the~~ in an exhaust passage of an internal combustion engine to oxidize and remove collected particulate matter by performing ~~the~~ a regenerating-mode operation when ~~the~~ a quantity of the collected particulate matter in a filter of the filter system ~~for collecting~~ to collect the particulate matter ~~becomes~~ is greater than or equal to a predetermined judgment value for regeneration ~~or more~~, comprising:

collected-quantity estimation means for estimating the quantity of the collected particulate matter in the filter; and

maximum-fuel-injection-quantity restricting means for restricting ~~the~~ a maximum fuel injection quantity of the internal combustion engine when the quantity of the collected particulate matter estimated by the collected-quantity estimation means is ~~the~~ greater than or equal to a predetermined judgment value for restriction ~~or more~~.

2. (Currently Amended) The internal combustion engine exhaust gas purifying system according to claim 1, ~~wherein~~ further comprising:

fuel restriction indicating means ~~is included which indicates~~ for indicating restriction of the maximum fuel injection quantity of ~~an~~ the internal combustion engine when or while the maximum-fuel-injection-quantity restricting means restricts the maximum fuel injection quantity.

3. (Currently Amended) The internal combustion engine exhaust gas purifying

system according to claim 1, wherein

the collected-quantity estimation means estimates the quantity of collected particulate matter in accordance with ~~the~~ a differential pressure between the upstream and downstream of the filter.

4. (Previously Presented) The internal combustion engine exhaust gas purifying system according to claim 1, wherein

the continuous regenerating diesel particulate filter system uses one of the following three systems: a system constituted by making the filter carrying a catalyst, a system constituted by setting an oxidation catalyst to the upstream side of the filter, and a system constituted by making the filter carrying a catalyst and setting an oxidation catalyst to the upstream side of the filter.

5. (New) A method of purifying an internal combustion engine, comprising:

oxidizing and removing particulate matter collected in a filter in the engine when a pressure differential between upstream and downstream sides of the filter is greater than or equal to a first judgment value;

estimating a quantity of the collected particulate matter; and

restricting a maximum fuel injection quantity of the internal combustion engine when the quantity is greater than or equal to a second judgment value,

wherein the oxidizing and removing are performed independently from the restricting of the maximum fuel injection quantity.